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The History of North America. Edited by GUY CARLETON LEE, Ph.D. Vol. I. *Discovery and Exploration.* By ALFRED BRITAIN, in conference with GEORGE EDWARD REED, LL.D., S.T.D. Vol. II. *The Indians of North America in Historic Times.* By CYRUS THOMAS, Ph.D., in conference with W. J. MCGEE, LL.D. Vol. III. *The Colonization of the South.* By PETER JOSEPH HAMILTON. Vol. IV. *The Colonization of the Middle States and Maryland.* By FREDERICK ROBERTSON JONES, Ph.D. (Philadelphia: George Barrie and Sons. 1904. Pp. xxiv, 511; xx, 464; xxiii, 494; xxiv, 523.)

A WORK announced as "The first definitive, authoritative, and inclusive narrative history of North America" should indeed be furnished with worthy sponsors, and none more worthy could be found than those claimed for this series — Johns Hopkins University and the American Historical Association. The critical, however, will desire to know the exact relationship between these organizations and the work in question. The editor tells us that "for almost a decade" "the Johns Hopkins University group of authors" has had some such project in mind, and that when the American Historical Association decided not to undertake the task, they at once took up the plan it had outlined, and, modifying it in some respects, pushed it to completion. On examining the list of twenty authors, described as "specialists, mostly from the Johns Hopkins group", we find that four hold degrees from the department of History, Politics, and Economics of that university. None of these men is now connected with it, but the editor holds the position of instructor in history. With one exception, these men have attained the doctorate within the last ten years, the editor in 1898. They therefore do not belong to the generation which made the reputation of the university; they have their own reputation yet to make, and must have been graduate students when they conceived their ambitious project.

A plan proposed to the American Historical Association has indeed been in part followed, but this plan was never indorsed by the Association and was but the barest sketch, merely suggesting coöperation under the direction of an editor-in-chief, and publication in twenty volumes, each complete in itself. In other respects the connection of the Association with the history has been still more slight. Of three hundred and twenty-nine persons mentioned as "authors", as members of the "editorial board", "board of advisers on exclusion and inclusion", "board of advisers on colonial affairs", "board of military and naval advisers", and as giving "courteous attention, valuable assistance, encouragement, or approval", not one has ever served the Association as an officer, and only ten as members of any standing committee, commission, or board. The greater number of those thus mentioned seem to have given the courteous attention which custodians of historical collections are accustomed to extend to all duly accredited students. If,

as would seem to be the case, the list last mentioned indicates all the libraries consulted, it is curious that it contains no names outside the United States.

In the plan of the series, volumes II, *The Indians of North America in Historic Times*, and XIX, *Prehistoric North America*, should certainly change places. The lack of separate accounts of European conditions leading to colonization and of American physiography is not supplied by discussions in any of the four volumes so far issued, and will be serious if not provided for. It would seem hardly necessary to assure the reader, as the publishers do, that the work is "non-sectional, non-partisan, non-sectarian". Yet one doubts if a history is properly called non-sectional which presents two accounts of the Civil War, one from a Northern and one from a Southern standpoint. It is to be hoped that it is not to be kept non-sectarian by the exclusion of religious history, as seems to be foreshadowed in Mr. Jones's treatment of the Quakers. The illustrations are well chosen and exquisitely reproduced, but are not so arranged as to illustrate the neighboring text. There are no foot-notes or bibliographies.

Mr. Brittain's volume, *Discovery and Exploration*, is the first of the series. Much more than half of it is composed of quotations from the voyagers themselves and their friends. It is very readable, but necessarily the proportions are determined more by the material available than by the relative importance of the voyages. Out of 502 pages 199 are devoted to the journal of Columbus. Some critical apparatus is furnished for judging this and the letters of Vespucci, but the writings of Bernal Diaz are presented without a word of warning. The text written by Mr. Brittain seems hardly definitive. His style is loose and his meaning is often obscure. His handling of evidence is inadequate, and few scholars will agree that, "There is no difficulty, and there can be no reasonable doubt, in identifying Helluland with Newfoundland, Markland with Nova Scotia, and Vinland with New England. Indeed, the description of the coast is so accurate that in the island between which and the ness Erik sailed it is easy to recognize Nantucket" (p. 16).

One takes up Mr. Thomas's *The Indians of North America in Historic Times* with a feeling of expectation and lays it down with disappointment. There would seem to be half a dozen points of view from which a man of Mr. Thomas's equipment might write such a history with profit, but he avoids them all. His method is to take sections of territory, beginning with the West Indies and Central America, and to discuss the history of each Indian tribe in the section from its first contact with the white man to the present day. The consequence is that on page 11 the dates 1570 and "now" jostle each other; on page 316 the dates 1714 and 1890; and so throughout. Occasionally the sectional method is suspended to allow a continuous treatment of some migrating tribe, yet the account of the Iroquois is divided between two widely-separated chapters. Somewhat more than half the book is concerned with Indian wars, which are discussed with a knowledge of detail and an appreciation of Indian character that increases one's regret that

the plan is not more comprehensive ; but even here the important is sacrificed to the trivial. No reference is made to the strategic position occupied by the Iroquois ; and the Fox wars in Wisconsin, which impoverished the treasury of New France, are dismissed in a page and a third. Indian trade is almost ignored, and the triangular struggle between the French, the Dutch (and their successors, the English), and the Iroquois to get control of that trade is not mentioned. Hardly any information is given as to the influence of the white man on Indian character and civilization. The drink problem, the blessing which the white man conferred by introducing the horse and the blanket, the curse of European disease, the working of the Spanish missionary settlements, and the changes wrought by intermarriage are totally neglected. Mr. Thomas, is quite right in distinguishing between the policy of the United States toward the Indian and the execution of that policy, but in treating "the history of the Indians as it stands apart from that of the white race", it is certainly the execution of the policy that should be emphasized. Mr. Thomas, however, deals almost exclusively with rather technical questions of land title and the legal status of the tribes. The last chapter, "The Indians as a Race and as a Factor in American History", is very suggestive. The book will have a permanent value as an encyclopedia of Indian tribes and wars.

Mr. Hamilton furnishes a charming and valuable volume on *The Colonization of the South*. Readers of his *Colonial Mobile* will find no new contributions to knowledge, and in a definitive history it is perhaps unfortunate to change, as he does, the center of interest which we have commonly accepted from Virginia to the Gulf of Mexico, giving one hundred and ninety-three pages exclusively to the French and Spanish colonies and one hundred and eighty-five to the English. Such criticisms seem captious, however, in view of the novel suggestiveness of the treatment and the firm handling of the material. It is a book worth the reading of historian and layman alike.

Mr. Jones's *The Colonization of the Middle States and Maryland* attains no distinction and merits no particular reproach.

CARL RUSSELL FISH.

History of the United States of America. By HENRY WILLIAM ELSON. (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan and Company. 1904. Pp. xxxii, 911, xl.)

IN a single volume, approximating one thousand pages, Mr. Elson has endeavored to satisfy the frequently heard demand for a history of the United States from the earliest to the latest times compressed into one book. Of the result, one may not safely predict that it is the final effort ; that no one will have the courage later to attempt it again. On the other hand, it is within the bounds of safe prophecy to say that the work will be accepted as more nearly approaching the ideal than any previously attempted. It must not be compared with the volume in the Cambridge